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**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**Important Information about Voting in the Presidential Primary**

Ballots will be mailed by May 6<sup>th</sup> to all registered voters in Washington for the 2016 Presidential Primary.

Included in every ballot packet are instructions with 7 easy steps for making sure votes cast in this election are counted. It is important that voters follow these instructions.

Washington households will receive a state Presidential Primary Voters' Pamphlet around the same time that ballots are sent. Voters who don't receive a Voters' Pamphlet should contact the Office of Secretary of State's Election Division at (360) 902-4180, (800) 448-4881, or [elections@sos.wa.gov](mailto:elections@sos.wa.gov).

Secretary of State Kim Wyman is forecasting a 42 percent voter turnout for this election.

Both parties held caucuses, with Democrats using theirs as the method of allocating national convention delegates. Republicans will use the primary to allocate 100 percent of their 44 delegates to the national convention.

The state's Presidential Primary law, passed overwhelmingly by Democratic and Republican lawmakers as a citizen Initiative to the Legislature in 1989, provides for the quadrennial election, but allows the parties to choose what to do with the results.

For more information on the Presidential Primary, go to <http://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/> then click on 2016 Presidential Primary FAQs.

Voters are required to declare a party affiliation in order to vote. Each party drafted its own declaration language. Both party declarations will be included on the ballot return envelope, in addition to the standard ballot declaration. You are required to mark the box for one or the other party for your ballot to be counted.

The party preference you mark on your return envelope is a matter of public record for 22 months following certification of the Presidential Primary.

If you mark both boxes and sign your envelope, by law, your submission is complete but incorrect - your ballot will be rejected, with no opportunity for you to correct it.

Candidates of both parties will appear on a single ballot. But, unlike other elections, you may vote for only one candidate on the entire ballot. Most importantly, the candidate you select must be of the same party as the party whose declaration you agree to on the envelope. If you vote for two candidates, your ballot will not be counted. If you choose a party declaration on the envelope but mark your ballot for a candidate of the opposite party, your ballot will not be counted.

The first step in processing all Presidential Primary ballots will be to separate the envelopes by party. "Batches" of ballots will contain only envelopes with Democratic declarations, or only envelopes with Republican designations. If a Republican-voted ballot shows up in a Democratic batch, that ballot will be sent to the Canvassing Board and will not be counted.

Your vote is your voice and we want your vote to count, says Rose Ann Carroll, Jefferson County Auditor. The Presidential Primary is different from all other Washington elections. Please take your time, call us for help if you have questions and return your ballot as early as possible.

For more election information, contact the Jefferson County Elections Division at (360) 385-9117 or visit [www.co.jefferson.wa.us](http://www.co.jefferson.wa.us) (click on Elections).